

INTEGRATED ACCESS POINT NETWORK DEVICE

Abstract

A communication device integrates traffic monitoring, policy configuration and enforcement, and proxy services within the device. The policies can affect both prioritization of data as well as allocation of communication bandwidth. Data packets that are accepted at the device are classified according to a set of defined classes and are transmitted through the device according to a policy for prioritization and bandwidth allocation for the classes. Optionally, some of the packets are passed to a proxy application hosted in the communication device. The device functions as a link-layer bridge, thereby allowing the device to be inserted into a data path without reconfiguring network layer software at devices that use that data path. The device includes operating modes in which packets are passed through the device without modification.

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